I Claim:

1. A method for marking a vehicle wheel for subsequent identification, comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a wheel shape;

(b) marking the wheel shape with a first ID mark;

(c) machining the wheel shape in regions including that of the first ID mark to create a finished wheel; and

(d) marking the finished wheel with a second ID mark.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first ID mark is located on a rim barrel of the wheel shape.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first ID mark is located on an inboard flange of the wheel shape.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the second ID mark is located on an inboard flange of the finished wheel.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the first and second ID marks are located on respective opposite sides of the inboard flange.

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein both of the first and second ID marks are located on a single side of the inboard flange.

7. A method according to claim 4, wherein the second ID mark is located on an inside surface of the inboard flange.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the second ID mark is applied to the finished wheel in substantially the same region as the first ID mark on the wheel shape.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the second ID mark is applied to a rim barrel of the finished wheel.

10. A method according to claim 1, and comprising the step of removing the first ID mark during the machining step.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first ID mark comprises a machine-readable code.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the second ID mark comprises a machine-readable code.

13. A method for marking a vehicle wheel for subsequent identification, comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a wheel shape;

(b) marking the wheel shape with an ID mark; and

(c) machining the wheel shape in regions including that of the ID mark to create a finished wheel.

14. A method according to claim 13, and comprising removing the ID mark in the machining step.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein the ID mark is located on a rim barrel of the wheel shape.

16. A method according to claim 13, wherein the ID mark is located on an inboard flange of the wheel shape.

17. A method for marking a vehicle wheel for subsequent identification, comprising the steps of:

(a) casting a wheel shape comprising a wheel rim and hub, the wheel rim defining a rim barrel, inboard flange, and outboard flange;

(b) marking the inboard flange of the wheel rim with a first ID mark;

(c) machining the wheel shape in regions including the inboard flange to create a finished wheel;

(d) removing the first ID mark in the machining step of (c); and

(e) marking an inboard flange of the finished wheel with a second ID mark.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the first and second ID marks are located on respective opposite sides of the inboard flange.

19. A method according to claim 17, wherein both of the first and second ID marks are located on a single side of the inboard flange.

20. A method according to claim 17, wherein the second ID mark is located on an inside surface of the inboard flange.

21. A method according to claim 17, wherein the first ID mark comprises a machine-readable code.

22. A method according to claim 17, wherein the second ID mark comprises a machine-readable code.

23. A method for marking a vehicle wheel for subsequent identification, comprising the steps of:

(a) casting a wheel shape comprising a wheel rim and hub, the wheel rim defining a rim barrel, inboard flange, and outboard flange;

(b) marking the rim barrel of the wheel rim with a first ID mark;

(c) machining the wheel shape in regions including the rim barrel to create a finished wheel;

(d) removing the first ID mark in the machining step of (c); and

(e) marking a rim barrel of the finished wheel with a second ID mark.